pending with different banks separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The banks advances under the Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme form part of their advance to 'weaker Sections' The thrus of the credit policy continues to channel increased flow of credit to weaker sections.

(b) and (c). Available date relating to scheduled commercial banks DRI advances and the share of scheduled casts/scheduled tribes (SC/SI) therein in the State of Uttar Pradesh are as follows:

(No. of Accounts in lakhs)
(Balance outstanding in crores of Rs)

At the end of	DRI advances		of which to SC/ST	
	No. of accounts	Balance outstanding	No. of accounts	Balance outstanding
September, 1988	2.87	58.09	1.44	27.67
March, 1989	3.19	62.70	1.47	31.34
September, 1989	2.85	64.95	1.40	29.52

Reserve Bank of India has advised that no separate data is reported in respect of other Backward Classes.

(d) The data reporting system from bank does not generate the information relating to the number of applicant for various loans pending with different banks.

Relaxation in Import Curbs on Leather Industry.

7121. SHRIMATI BASVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently relaxed import curbs on leather industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the items covered by this relaxation; and

(d) the extent to which it will be beneficial to leather industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c). The Reserve Bank of India by its notification dated 9.8.91 has allowed exemption from the requirement of prescribed minimum cash margins in respect of undermentioned items for leather industry for import by manufacturer-exporters, as well as by export trading houses, provided there are no export bills outstanding beyond six months from the date of export in excess of the prescribed tolerance levels:

(a) Beta naphthylamine

(b) Calamine

(c) Calcium boride

(d) Hides and skins, raw or salted, where the value of hides and skins is more than that

of wool/hair thereon

(e) leather finishing auxiliaries filler, penetrators and slip agents

(f) Pickled hides, skins, where the value of hides and skins is more than that of wool/ hair thereon

(g) Pickled hides, skins, pelts, splits and parts thereof

(h) Wattle Extract

(i) Wet Blue Chrome tanned crust and finished leather including splits and sides.

For import of goods other than capital goods, the earlier exemption from the requirement of cash margin upto 10% actual export realisation from the General Currency Area during the previous according Year subject to a Maximum of Rs.2.5. crores in a year available to manufacturer exporters of finished leather/leather products has been enhanced to 20% with a monetary ceiling of Rs. 5 crores in a year provided there are no export bills outstanding beyond six months from the date of export.

(d) The above steps will provide easier access to some of the essential inputs used by the leather industry and hence enhance its competitiveness.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Roads in National Highway Grid in Bihar

7122. SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any roads have been included in the National Highway grid in Bihar since 1974; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) No, Sir.

(b) The State Roads are included in the National Highway grid not on the basis of any regional or State-wise considerations, but keeping in view the various priorities and requirements vis-a-vis availability of funds, recommendations made by the National Transport Policy committee, *inter-se* priority attached to each individual road on an all-India basis, fulfilment of prescribed criteria for new National Highways etc.

Repair of Border Roads in Arunachal Pradesh

7123. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pace of repair work of border roads in Arunachal Pradesh has accelerated during the last three years;

(b) if so, the total amount spent on the repair of roads in this area during the above period, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to further speed up the repair work of border roads in Arunachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE(SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The year-wise expenditure for the last three years is as under: